



The listed item was cited by the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart application, namely Appln. No. 2004-081699. A copy of the Japanese Office Action dated January 17, 2006 is attached hereto.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2)**

Applicant submits that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application no more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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